



## Arizona Department of Child Safety

Douglas A. Ducey  
Governor

Gregory McKay  
Director

Preliminary Report	Near Fatality	9/10/15
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**Amendments to the information originally posted on 4/27/15 are displayed below in red.**

**1. Near Fatality Victim:** 19-month-old male

**2. Date of notification to DCS:** 4/8/15

**3. Date of near fatality:** 4/8/15

**4. Date of determination that the near fatality was the result of abuse or neglect\*:**

Matthew Romeo Sanchez – 4/9/15

Shante Preciado – 7/20/15

**5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Maricopa County – Phoenix, AZ

**6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:**

Matthew Romeo Sanchez – age 19 – Phoenix, AZ

Shante Preciado – age 24 – Phoenix, AZ

**7. Circumstances of the near fatality that indicate it was the result of abuse or neglect:**

On April 8, 2015, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 19-month-old Caleb who was brought to the hospital in critical condition after being in the care of his mother's boyfriend, Matthew Romeo Sanchez. Caleb was found to have significant injuries including brain bleeds and bruising to his face and body. Physicians determined that the injuries were inconsistent with accidental trauma and Matthew Sanchez was arrested for felony child abuse. **It was also determined that the child's mother, Shante Preciado, neglected the child by failing to protect him from abuse.**

**8. Whether DCS has received any reports or past cases, of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child or the current alleged perpetrator(s)\*\*:**

DCS has received no prior reports of abuse or neglect involving Matthew Sanchez and the near fatality victim.

**The child and his mother, Shante Preciado, were involved in the following:**

On March 10, 2015, a report was received alleging neglect to the child by Shante Preciado, his father, and his stepmother. Shante Preciado had taken him to the pediatrician where he was observed to have small bruises and scratches in different stages of healing on his back. The pediatrician noted that the injuries did not require medical attention, but there were concerns that the child was being injured while visiting at his father's home. A forensic exam determined that the bruising was consistent with child-sized bite marks as reported by the family. The investigation was still open when a second report was received. The allegations have since been unsubstantiated.

On March 26, 2015, a report was received alleging physical abuse to the child. The child's father brought him to Phoenix Children's Hospital after picking him up from a babysitter and seeing multiple bruises and burns. The investigation remained open with both the Phoenix Police Department and DCS when the near fatality occurred.



**9. Actions taken by DCS in response to the near fatality:**

A joint investigation is being conducted with the Phoenix Police Department.

**10. Actions taken regarding the child and/or other children in the home:**

Following an assessment of child safety, a sibling was removed from the home and placed with relatives.  
**Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was also placed with relatives.**

**11. Whether the agency is or intends to provide direct services or service referrals to the family:**

The Department is providing services to the family.

\*The determination that a fatality or near fatality is the result of abuse, abandonment or neglect is based one or more of the following criteria: (1) The perpetrator(s) arrest related to the incident, (2) Substantiated finding(s) linking the alleged perpetrator(s) action(s) to the fatality or near fatality and/or (3) Results of the Medical Examiner's report.

\*\* Information released after July 3, 2015 provides reports, or any current or past cases, of abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child or the alleged perpetrator pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-807.01(A)(1)(e).  
Posted information may be updated as new information becomes available.